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His conclusions are as follows:

1. Rocky Mountain spotted fever has existed in California for a much longer period and to a far greater extent than has hitherto been supposed.
2. There are probably five main infected areas, one in Modoc County and four in Lassen.
3. The disease is not as severe in California as in Montana, nor as light as in Idaho.
4. The infection probably entered California through Nevada rather than Oregon.

ARSENIC IN "CHEMICALLY PURE" ZINC.

By Chester N. Myers, Organic Chemist, Division of Pharmacology, Hygienic Laboratory, United States Public Health Service.

In a study, by means of the Marsh test, of the arsenic content of various body fluids after the injection of salvarsan and arsenobenzol, it became necessary to secure a new supply of metallic zinc, the old supply, which had been proven to be arsenic-free, having been exhausted. Eight samples, which purported to be chemically pure, were examined. These all contained arsenic, though the statements on the labels indicated freedom from this element, the following designations being used: "As, Nil"; "As, none." Even after specifications were submitted requiring arsenic-free zinc, samples of impure zinc were received. The analyses which were being made dealt with amounts of arsenic varying from 1 to 7 parts per million; whereas in 10-gram samples of zinc, marked as previously indicated, amounts varying from 10 to 100 parts of metallic arsenic (1 to 10 parts per million of zinc) were found. The statements on the label of each of these samples indicated that the zinc had been analyzed and found to be free of arsenic. The control tests were carried out with 40 grams of zinc and four times the amount of sulphuric acid used in testing the zinc samples. In no case was any trace of arsenic observed. However, this is no indication that there was no arsenic present in this control sample. It does mean, however, that arsenic was not present in amounts as large as one part per million in 40 grams of zinc, since the procedure employed was capable of detecting amounts as small as this.

During the past two years, conditions have forced the manufacturers of chemicals to meet extraordinary demands. Those who use their products, either in the manufacture or the analysis of foodstuffs, should see to it that those chemicals and reagents are not contaminated; of this fact the label is not always sufficient or final evidence.

While in medicolegal examinations it is customary to control all procedures most rigidly, and doubtless chemists doing this kind of work always take proper precautions in regard to the purity of their reagents, this note is intended to call the attention of analysts in food, drug, and public-health laboratories to the necessity, when arsenic is being sought, for examining all chemicals for themselves, irrespective of the fact that they are using "analyzed" chemicals.

AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

MEETING HELD AT ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., SEPTEMBER 5-9, 1916.

By Martin I. Wilbert, Technical Assistant, Hygienic Laboratory, United States Public Health Service.

In addition to the meeting of the association itself, and the several sections into which the association is divided for its scientific work, a number of committees of the association met and transacted business of interest to pharmacy generally. On the whole, this meeting presented ample evidence of a growing appreciation of the importance of pharmacy as a factor in the safeguarding of public health and the fact that this appreciation is being emphasized in a variety of ways.

The first general session of the association was held on Tuesday morning, September 5, at which time the president of the association, Mr. William C. Alpers, of Cleveland, presented his address. He was followed by Dr. Solomon Solis Cohen, of Philadelphia, who voiced the appreciation, by medical practitioners generally, of the work of the American Pharmaceutical Association in developing the National Formulary as a book of standards for the less well-known drugs and preparations. Among the more interesting matters discussed in the several section meetings was "The sale and use of narcotics," by Dr. H. C. Wood, jr., of Philadelphia. Dr. Wood expressed the opinion that the Harrison antinarcotic law had reduced the sale of narcotics by fully 50 per cent. He also expressed the belief that the solution of the problem of narcotism lies in educating the general public to the danger of habit-forming drugs, and, in addition to this, strict adherence by physicians and druggists to the policy of using and selling narcotics only in cases where nothing else will suffice.

In the section on scientific papers Prof. John Uri Lloyd, of Cincinnati, presented a practical demonstration of the applicability of fuller's earth, as an adsorbing medium for separating alkaloids and other active constituents from solution. The new editions of the Pharmacopœia and of National Formulary were discussed from various points of view, and by a number of contributors, all of whom expressed their disappointment at the delay in the publication of these two books.